STEEL ON TARGET

"COLD STEEL" – OIF2 NEWSLETTER #2

APRIL 4, 2004

Greetings Cold Steel Families,

All of the soldiers of the Cold Steel Battalion have made it to Camp Cooke, Iraq safely. We had no significant events except for a couple of fender benders due to the large amount of dust on one portion of the route.

After arriving here, we temporarily moved into the hangar for a few nights while waiting for 1st AD soldiers to leave. Now, soldiers from HSC and Alpha company are occupying the offices on either side of the hangar and Bravo is in their own motor pool building complete with bays and office space.

HSC has been busy setting up and operating the refuel point (FARP), ammunition holding area (AHA), tactical operations center (TOC) and improving the overall appearance of it's areas. CPT Caldwell has been chosen to be in charge of the battalion's convoys.

Alpha has been diligently working to set up their shop sets, clean the hangar, and improve their areas. CPT Nix and the Downed Aircraft Recovery Team (DART) recovered an Iraqi Gazelle helicopter which they hope to restore and take back to Hood as a museum piece.

Bravo continues to work really hard to maintain the Brigade's ground vehicles and be ready by the middle of May or beginning of June. meantime, soldiers continue to improve their living a with amenities they brought from home or which the the PX.

As many of you might already know, the soldiers came on Advon did not get their deployment incentiv We are working hard to get this issue resolved to ens soldiers receive the entitlements they are due. Our have the money in their mid-April checks.

Mail has slowly begun to arrive here at Camp Coo some soldiers have already received a care package. the letters and packages coming as they are a huge boost for your soldiers.

Among the facilities available here besides the PX is a theater, an internet cafes and a phone center, a gym, and a couple of local vendor markets. Soldiers a lot of amenities they can take advantage of and we things to constantly improve.

I am currently in the process of creating the first over 1500 pictures which will be sent back to the rea detachment for duplication and distribution. If you w like a copy, please contact your respective FRG leade April 15th to get on the list. Copies will be distribute soon as feasibly possible.

You all remain in the hearts and minds of your sol and we hope they remain in yours. Until next time.

1LT Hernandez – Unit Historian

Above: 615th ASB Command and Staff in front of a mural of Saddam Hussein at Camp Cooke, Iraq. Right: A joint color guard stands in front of an AH-64A Apache at the Transfer of Authority ceremony held on 2 April 2004.

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CONVOYING INTO IRAQ EARLY MARCH 22

SUNRISE IN IRAQ ON MARCH 23

WEEK ONE HOUSING IN THE HANGAR

APACHES AT THE FARP (FORWARD ARMING AND REFUELING POINT)

COLD STEEL 6 SENDS

Hello, from beautiful Camp Cooke, Iraq. Well it may not be beautiful
But the soldiers of the Cold Steel Battalion are determined to make it
As good as possible. The Cold Steel Soldiers continue to amaze me
everyday with the dedication, hard work, and amazingly high morale.
The helicopters of the 4th BCT continue to make a huge difference in
the US Forces effort here in Iraq, and it’s the soldiers of the Cold Steel
BN that keep them going and all the other equipment of the brigade going.
You should be very proud of what your soldiers are doing over here.
Communications between us and our loved ones back home improves
A little each day as the CSM diligently works on getting the Cold Steel
Internet Café up and running. We are very happy to welcome our new
Additions to the battalion, the Vertex contractors for aviation maintenance.
They will enhance our capability so much and we are happy to have them
As part of the team. Continue to keep us in the forefront of your
prayers as we do our best to keep our loved ones safe.
Always know that we
Are dedicated to get the job done here, we have the best equipment,
and we are highly trained. Have confidence in us as we do ourselves.

COLD STEEL 9 SENDS

Greeting from Iraq, the soldiers of the Cold Steel Battalion are
fully engaged on the mission at hand. I can tell that
when we arrived here the area was in need of some
TLC. Your soldiers have taken ownership of all areas
and have made this place the best next thing to
working at West Ft. Hood. The Internet Café is up
and running thanks to the Cold Steel Soldiers so you
should be getting news from your soldiers.
Aviation operations are in full force, soldiers are
performing above Army expectations and the
Battalions that we support are grateful. In addition
this could not happen without the support of the
fuelers, ground mechanics and everybody on the
Cold Steel Team.
You have some of the best trained and the proudest
soldiers that our Army has to offer and make no
mistake that we will continue to excel as a team.
Until next time I send a belated Happy Easter
CS9

CLEANING UP OUTSIDE THE HANGAR

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AVENGERS RECOVER AN IRAQI GAZELLE

COMMO TEAM RUNNING WIRE

BLACK KNIGHTS ASSESS AN AIR CONDITIONER

A BOMBED OUT IRAQI WAREHOUSE

4TH BDE COMMAND TEAMS WITH COLORS

PINNING THE NEWLY PROMOTED CPT MOORE

FORMER IRAQI COMMAND BUNKER

SOLDIERS CHECKING ‘MY PAY’

‘STEEL ON TARGET’ PRODUCED BY THE 615TH ASB, 1CD – ALL PHOTOS BY 1LT JEFFREY R. HERN